



JUSTICE ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT



USER GUIDE

Index-Crimes Dashboard

November 3rd, 2021

INDEX-CRIMES DASHBOARD GUIDE

JAD strives to be a resource to the public by providing timely and relevant information via our website. Increasing public safety and reducing violent crime is front and center to everything we do. To that end, we are thrilled to announce the launching of a new dashboard showing Index-Crime rate statistics in Harris County. This dashboard shows crime trends over time in Harris County and compares crime rates between Harris County and other counties in Texas and between Harris County and large counties in the US. We hope you find this guide useful; for any questions pertaining to the dashboard, please contact jad@jad.hctx.net. For interview requests, to receive more educational and informational materials from JAD, and or to receive our newsletter, please reach out to media@jad.hctx.net.



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I. INTRODUCTION

The Harris County **Justice Administration Department** created a data dashboard on Index-Crime rate statistics in Harris County, as well as other counties in Texas and across the U.S. The purpose of this dashboard is to identify crime trends over time in Harris County and provide comparison crime rates from other jurisdictions.

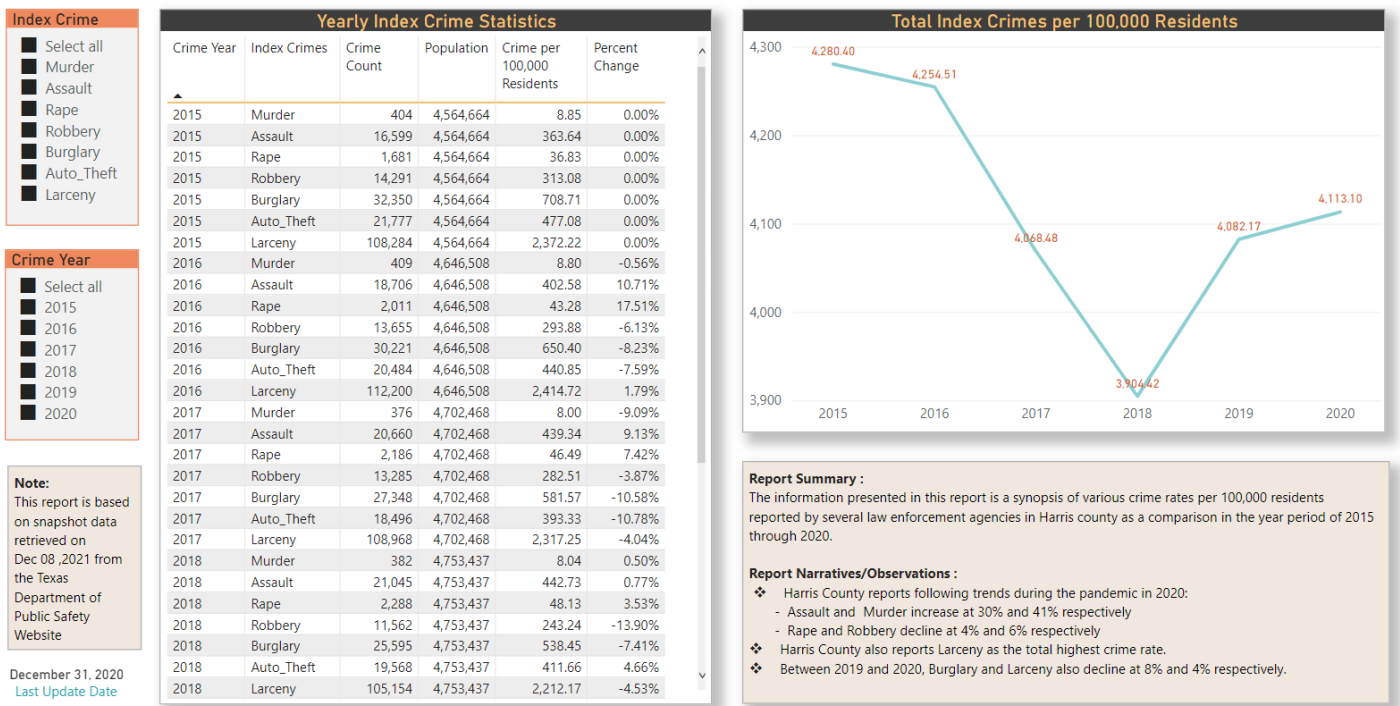
The Index-Crimes Dashboard can be accessed at: <https://jad.harriscountytexas.gov/Data/Index-Crimes-Stats>

II. THE DASHBOARD

JAD's Index-Crimes Dashboard shows count of Index-Crimes as reported annually; the count is normalized by population to show counts per 100,000 residents and year on year percentage changes from 2015 to 2020 for six Texas counties (Harris, Bexar, Dallas, El Paso, Tarrant, and Travis). For U.S. counties outside Texas, year on year percentage changes from 2018 to 2020 are shown.

III. TRENDS AND COMPARISONS OF INDEX-CRIMES IN HARRIS COUNTY

Trends and Comparisons of Index-Crimes in Harris County

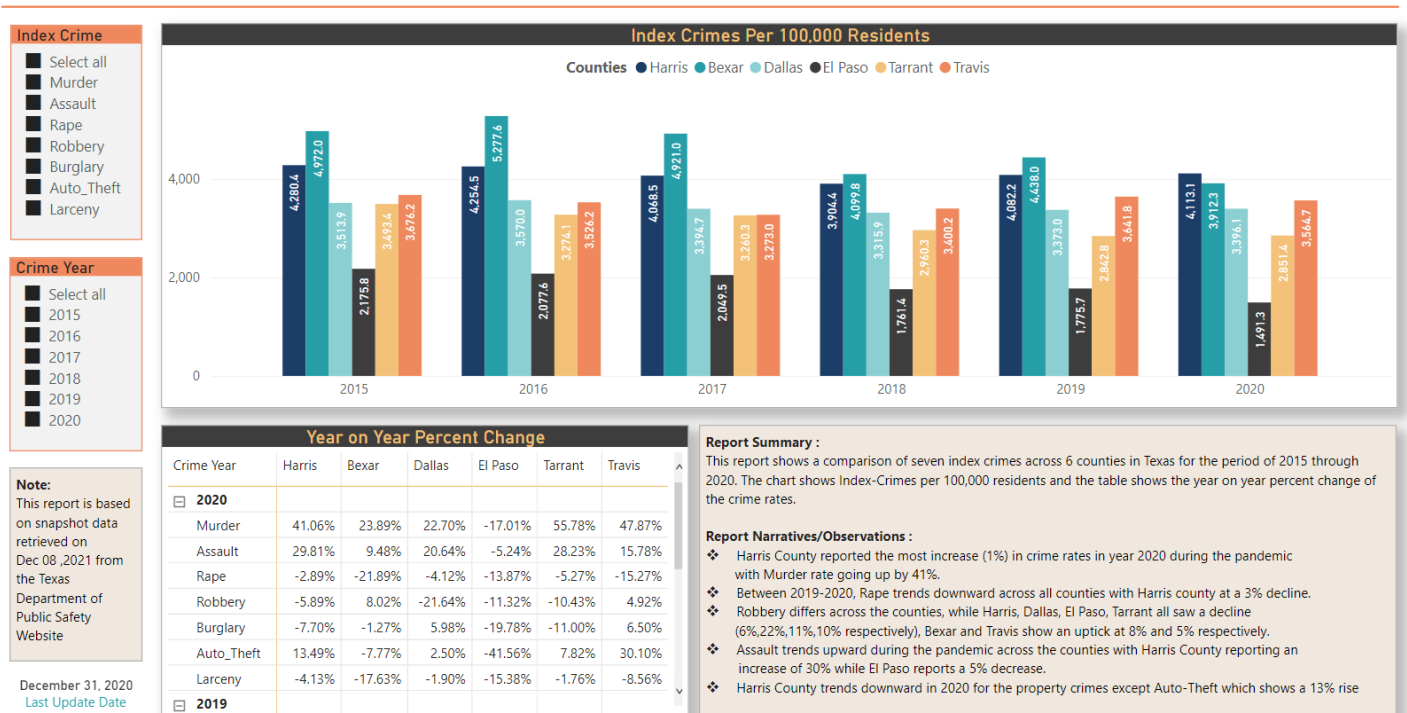


The Index-Crimes Dashboard allows users to filter data by selecting specific crimes and/or years and provides brief narratives on trends observable in the data.

- **Yearly Index-Crime Statistics** shows the count of each index-crime by year, population as reported to DPS, count normalized by population to retrieve the count by 100,000 residents, and year-on-year percentage changes.
- **Index-Crimes Per 100,000 Residents** is a visual trend of the overall count of crimes normalized by population. It is calculated as $(\text{Index Crime Count} / \text{Population}) * 100,000$

IV. TRENDS AND COMPARISONS OF INDEX-CRIMES ACROSS COUNTIES IN TEXAS

Trends and Comparisons of Index Crimes across Counties in Texas

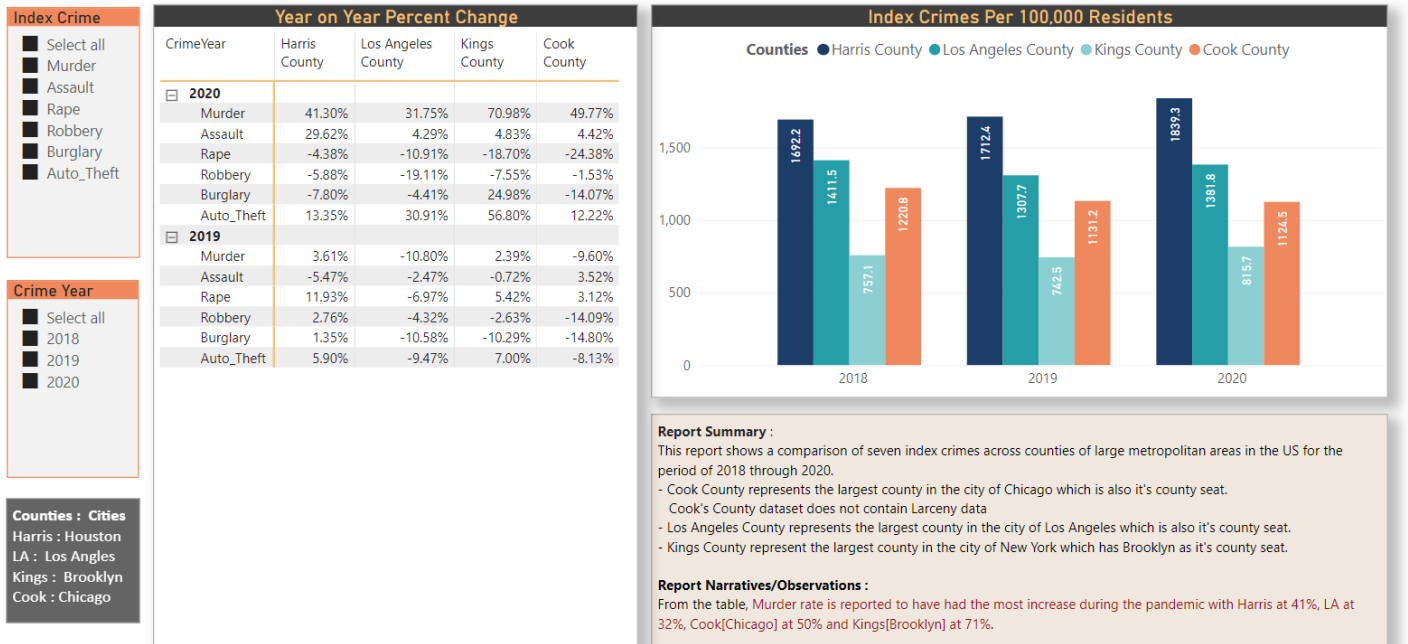


The second page of the dashboard, the "Trends and Comparisons of Index-Crimes Across Counties in Texas" provides a snapshot of Harris County crime data compared to other large Texas counties with filters for specific crimes and years. It also provides brief narratives on trends observable in the data.

V.

TRENDS AND COMPARISONS OF INDEX-CRIMES ACROSS LARGE COUNTIES IN THE U.S.

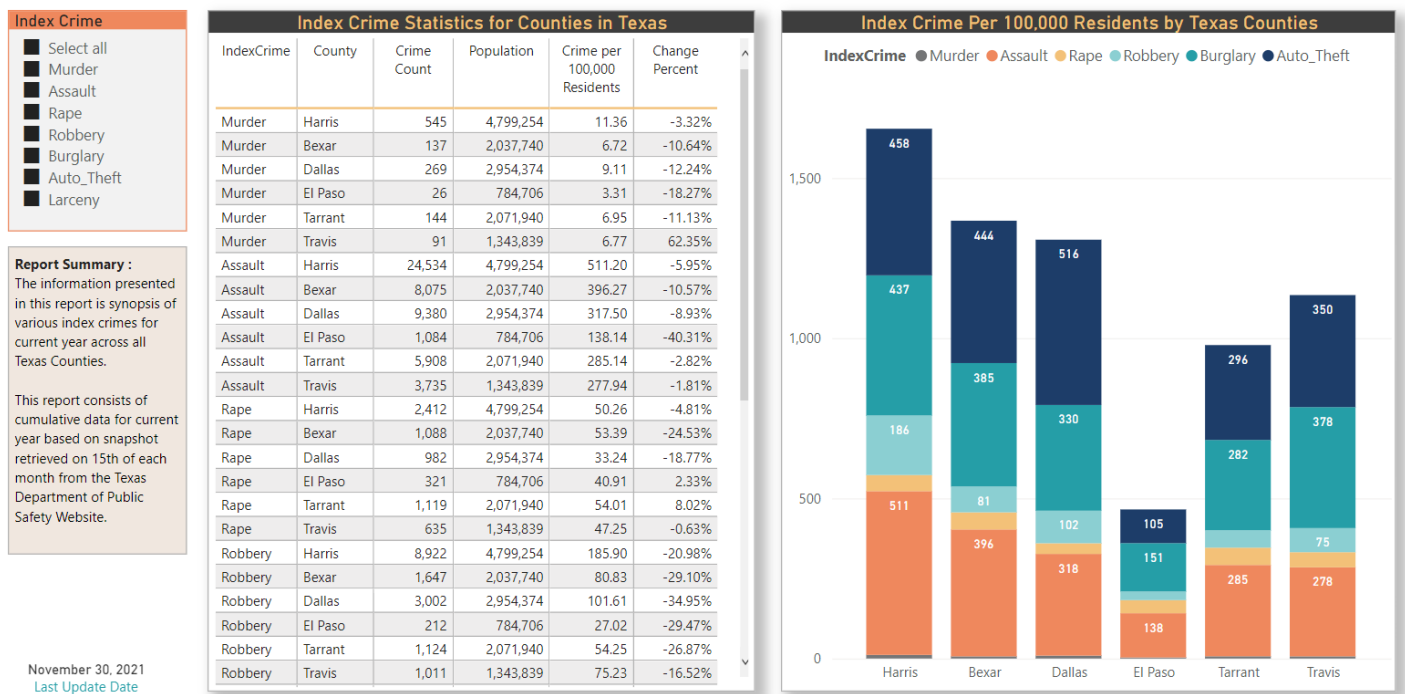
Trends and Comparisons of Index-Crimes across Large Counties in the US



The third page of the dashboard, the “Trends and Comparisons of Index-Crimes Across Large Counties in the US” provides a snapshot of Harris County as compared to other large, metropolitan counties in the U.S, including with filters for specific crimes and years. It also provides brief narratives on trends observable in the data.

VI. INDEX-CRIME STATISTICS FOR CURRENT YEAR

Index Crimes Statistics for Current Year : 2021 as of: November 30, 2021



All the previous pages display data for completed years. The fourth page of the dashboard, the “Index- Crime Statistics for Current Year” provides a snapshot of Harris County crime data for current year as compared to other large Texas counties, including with filters for specific crimes.

VII. DATA TABLE

Index-Crimes Data Table for Counties in Texas and US

Crime Year	Index Crime	County	Crime Count	Population	Crime per 100,000 Residents	Change Percent
2015	Murder	Harris	404	4,564,664	8.85	0.00%
2015	Murder	Bexar	112	1,897,498	5.90	0.00%
2015	Murder	Dallas	188	2,829,734	6.64	0.00%
2015	Murder	El Paso	23	841,774	2.73	0.00%
2015	Murder	Tarrant	73	1,929,893	3.78	0.00%
2015	Murder	Travis	27	1,241,359	2.18	0.00%
2015	Assault	Harris	16,599	4,564,664	363.64	0.00%
2015	Assault	Bexar	6,009	1,897,498	316.68	0.00%
2015	Assault	Dallas	5,783	2,829,734	204.37	0.00%
2015	Assault	El Paso	2,128	841,774	252.80	0.00%
2015	Assault	Tarrant	4,710	1,929,893	244.06	0.00%
2015	Assault	Travis	2,654	1,241,359	213.80	0.00%
2015	Rape	Harris	1,681	4,564,664	36.83	0.00%
2015	Rape	Bexar	1,214	1,897,498	63.98	0.00%
2015	Rape	Dallas	1,265	2,829,734	44.70	0.00%
2015	Rape	El Paso	370	841,774	43.96	0.00%
2015	Rape	Tarrant	1,027	1,929,893	53.22	0.00%
2015	Rape	Travis	600	1,241,359	48.33	0.00%
2015	Robbery	Harris	14,291	4,564,664	313.08	0.00%
2015	Robbery	Bexar	2,159	1,897,498	113.78	0.00%
2015	Robbery	Dallas	5,614	2,829,734	198.39	0.00%
2015	Robbery	El Paso	444	841,774	52.75	0.00%
2015	Robbery	Tarrant	1,797	1,929,893	93.11	0.00%
2015	Robbery	Travis	1,032	1,241,359	83.14	0.00%
2015	Burglary	Harris	32,350	4,564,664	708.71	0.00%
2015	Burglary	Bexar	11,504	1,897,498	607.50	0.00%

CrimeYear	Index Crime	County	Crime Count	Population	Crime per 100,000 Residents	Percent Change
2018	Murder	Harris County	382	4,753,437	8.04	0.50%
2018	Murder	Los Angeles County	570	10,098,052	5.65	0.00%
2018	Murder	Kings County	98	2,600,747	3.77	0.00%
2018	Murder	Cook County	638	5,190,144	12.29	0.00%
2018	Assault	Harris County	21,045	4,753,437	442.71	0.77%
2018	Assault	Los Angeles County	34,028	10,098,052	336.98	0.00%
2018	Assault	Kings County	9,327	2,600,747	358.63	0.00%
2018	Assault	Cook County	17,828	5,190,144	343.50	0.00%
2018	Rape	Harris County	2,288	4,753,437	48.07	3.40%
2018	Rape	Los Angeles County	4,489	10,098,052	44.45	0.00%
2018	Rape	Kings County	802	2,600,747	30.84	0.00%
2018	Rape	Cook County	2,593	5,190,144	49.96	0.00%
2018	Robbery	Harris County	11,562	4,753,437	243.24	-13.90%
2018	Robbery	Los Angeles County	19,480	10,098,052	192.91	0.00%
2018	Robbery	Kings County	4,157	2,600,747	159.84	0.00%
2018	Robbery	Cook County	11,282	5,190,144	217.37	0.00%
2018	Burglary	Harris County	25,595	4,753,437	538.45	-7.41%
2018	Burglary	Los Angeles County	42,552	10,098,052	421.39	0.00%
2018	Burglary	Kings County	3,585	2,600,747	137.85	0.00%
2018	Burglary	Cook County	17,805	5,190,144	343.05	0.00%
2018	Auto_Theft	Harris County	19,568	4,753,437	411.64	4.66%
2018	Auto_Theft	Los Angeles County	41,412	10,098,052	410.10	0.00%
2018	Auto_Theft	Kings County	1,720	2,600,747	66.14	0.00%
2018	Auto_Theft	Cook County	13,215	5,190,144	254.62	0.00%
2018	Larceny	Harris County	105,154	4,753,437	2,212.06	-4.54%
2018	Larceny	Los Angeles County	183,055	10,098,052	1,812.55	0.00%

The fifth page of the dashboard, the “Data Table” page shows a detailed breakdown of crime and population counts per year for all counties included in the dashboard. This allows users to identify the sheer numbers used to retrieve the counts per 100,000 residents.

VIII. UNDERSTANDING CRIME RATE DATA

The Texas crime rate data included in the dashboard comes from the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) website and is available for public use.

Law enforcement agencies submit crime data to DPS, and this data is easily accessible to the public via the DPS website. For more information, visit <https://txucr.nibrs.com/Report/IndexCrimesReport>. Data included in the dashboard regarding other U.S. counties is sourced from various public websites available for public view/use. It is important to note that the data used in analyzing this report has limitations—comparisons with other counties can be tricky, as the number of reporting jurisdictions, population sizes, demographics, and other factors can influence data. Even with similar population sizes, other influences and trends can affect crime statistic variances.

The Texas Uniform Crime Reporting Program sorts Index-Crimes into two categories, “violent” (which includes assault, murder, rape, and robbery), and “property” (which includes auto-theft, burglary, and larceny). The Texas Uniform Crime Reporting Program defines each Index-Crime as follows:

Assault is defined as an unlawful attack by one person upon another to inflict severe or aggravated bodily injury. This type of assault is usually accompanied by the use of a weapon or by means likely to produce death or great bodily harm. Statistics for assault include attempted aggravated assault.

Auto-Theft is defined as the theft or attempted theft of a motor vehicle. An automobile is defined as a road vehicle typically with four wheels. Specifically excluded from this category are motorboats, construction equipment, airplanes, and farming equipment.

Burglary is the unlawful entry of a structure with the intent to commit a felony or a theft. While the use of force to gain entry is not required to classify an offense as burglary, attempted forcible entries to commit burglary are counted in these crime statistics.

Larceny is the unlawful taking, carrying, leading, or riding away of property from the possession or constructive possession of another. Larceny includes crimes such as shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse-snatching, thefts from motor vehicle part and accessories, bicycle thefts, and other things of value in which no use of force, violence, or fraud occurs.

Murder is the willful killing of one human being by another. This offense category includes any death resulting from a fight, argument, quarrel, assault or commission of a crime.

Rape is defined as penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with anybody part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim. Statistics reported in this crime category include assaults to commit rape; however, statutory rape is excluded.

Robbery is defined as the taking or attempting to take anything of value from the care, custody, or control of a person by force, threat of force or violence, or by putting the victim in fear. Robbery is a violent crime that frequently results in injury to the victim.

We hope you find this guide useful; for any questions pertaining to the dashboard, please contact jad@jad.hctx.net. For interview requests, to receive more educational and informational materials from JAD, and or to receive our newsletter, please reach out to media@jad.hctx.net.